

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1 - 8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) A computing machine comprising:

a RAM and a mass memory;

an operating system stored in the mass memory, the mass memory including a partition, said partition being read-only accessible to the operating system, and said partition containing a startup function and an automatic repair function, wherein for every startup of the computing machine, a BIOS initiates the startup function which resides at an address of the partition, the startup function which activates the operating system calls the automatic repair function, the automatic repair function calls the-an operating system mounting function which constructs an execution environment for the operating system based on data structures saved in the mass memory and, if an error based on incoherent data structures saved in the mass memory is detected during the operating system mounting function, the automatic repair function automatically calls the startup function upon return of a standard acknowledgement function.

10. (Previously Presented) A computing machine according to claim 9, wherein said startup function comprises a first code sequence that loads contents of the

partition into the RAM and a second code sequence that activates said automatic repair function in the RAM.

11. (Currently Amended) A computing machine according to claim 10, wherein said automatic repair function comprises a third code sequence that calls said operating system mounting function, the mounting function executable in RAM with write capability in at least one other partition of the mass memory.

12. (Currently Amended) A computing machine according to claim 11, wherein said automatic repair function comprises a fourth code sequence that acknowledges an error indicated by said operating system mounting function and a fifth code sequence that restarts the computing machine after an acknowledgement of the error.

13. (Currently Amended) A computing machine according to claim 12, wherein said partition contains ~~a~~the standard acknowledgement function and in that the fourth code sequence calls said standard acknowledgement function executable in RAM with write capability in at least one other partition of the mass memory.

14. (Previous Presented) A computing machine according to claim 9, wherein the mass memory is a hard disk.

15. (Original) A computing machine according to claim 9, further including a switch for resetting the RAM and restarting the machine.

16. (Currently Amended) A method for automatically starting a computing machine having a RAM and a mass memory having a partition, the mass memory having an operating system stored therein, comprising:

starting operation of the machine by means of a signal-;

loading into the RAM contents of a-the partition of the mass memory;

mounting an operating system from the RAM that includes an automatic repair function, the mounting of the operating system based on a call from the automatic repair function which is called by a startup function residing in the partition, the startup function being operable to activate the operating system, wherein said mounting the operating system comprises constructing an execution environment for the operating system based on data structures saved in the mass memory; and

acknowledging any error indicated in mounting the operating system based on incoherent data structures saved in the mass memory; and

reactivating, in response to said acknowledging, the loading of the contents of the partition of the mass memory.

17. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 16, further comprising:

creating a plurality of partitions in the mass memory; and

storing at least part of the operating system and functions for executing a startup, the automatic repair function that is capable of calling a mounting function and an acknowledgment function in a first one of said plurality of partitions,

wherein said first partition is read-only accessible to said operating system.

18. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 9, wherein the automatic repair function acknowledges one or more errors detected during the mounting of the operating system.

19. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 9, wherein the automatic repair function calls ~~a-the~~ standard acknowledgement function that attempts to repair the error utilizing only data in the mass memory.

20. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 9, wherein the automatic repair function comprises:

an instruction sequence that is capable of calling the operating system mounting function;

an instruction sequence that is capable of calling ~~a-the~~ standard acknowledgement function; and

an instruction sequence that is capable of calling the startup function upon return of the standard acknowledgement function.